

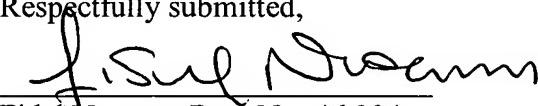
**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing preliminary amendments.

In the claims, claim 21 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Fidel Nwamu, Reg. No. 46,294  
Jason Van Truong, Reg. No. 53,704  
Attorneys for Applicants

CANON U.S.A., INC.  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT  
15975 Alton Parkway  
Irvine, CA 92618-3731  
Tel: (408) 468-2514 (Fidel Nwamu)  
Tel: (949) 932-3145 (Jason Truong)